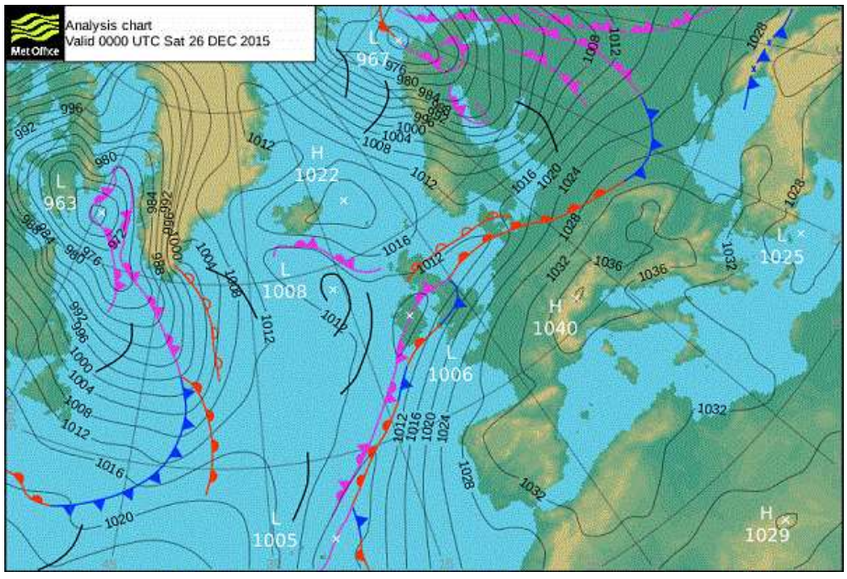
Red warning is issued for rain

26 December 2015 - A Red 'take action' warning for rainfall has been issued for parts of northern England today.

A band of rain will become slow-moving for a time today across Lancashire. 50 to 80 mm is expected to fall in a 6 to 9 hour period through to early afternoon, with over 100 mm likely over high ground over a longer period of time. It is the intensity of this rainfall, on already saturated ground that has sparked the issuing of the Met Office's most severe warning. This is expected to lead to widespread river flooding and surface water flooding

Amber and Yellow warnings are also in place for other parts of Lancashire, Cumbria, northwest Wales and parts of Scotland. The Amber 'be prepared' warning covers those areas more sensitive to the expected rainfall, and covers parts of northwest England, including Cumbria, Lancashire, western parts of both North and West Yorkshire, as well as parts of Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

The yellow 'be aware' warning area is larger and spreads down into North Wales and north, just into southern Scotland. A further 50 to 80 mm of rain is likely quite widely across the yellow and amber warning areas. Please be aware of the potential for flooding and some disruption to transport.



Surface Pressure Chart 26 December 2015

Alison Baptiste, Flood Duty Manager at the Environment Agency, said:"Our thoughts are with all those who've been coping with serious flooding to their homes and businesses repeatedly over Christmas and those who face the risk of further flooding.

"On Boxing Day we have issued several severe flood warnings meaning a risk to life, we urge people to check their flood risk, prepare for flooding, follow advice from emergency services and never to risk driving through flood water.

"Environment Agency staff have been working around the clock throughout Christmas with our emergency response partners and the help of the military in Lancashire, Cumbria and Yorkshire to help reduce the potential impacts of flooding and support those communities affected."

David Faichney, Duty Hydrology Manager from SEPA , said: "SEPA staff will be working closely with the Met Office and other partners throughout the holiday period to ensure that flood alerts and warnings are issued promptly. We would encourage the public to remain vigilant and check the SEPA or call SEPA's Floodline for the most up-to-date information on their area."

Meanwhile rain and hill snow is expected across parts of eastern Scotland today and a yellow warning is also in force for this but with impacts here expected to be low.

Elsewhere the weather is expected to remaining mild, cloudy and dry.

The last red warning that was issued was on the 5th December 2015, again for rainfall, for parts of Cumbria and the Scottish Borders.

It looks like the stormy conditions will continue through the coming week. Currently Tuesday has the potential to be very wet and windy a warnings has been issued for this for much of the western side of the UK.

During this period of unsettled weather, people are advised to stay up to date with the latest Met Office seven day forecasts and warnings and find out what to do in severe weather so they can plan ahead for the weather in store.

Last updated: 26 December 2015